

REMARKS

In the Action the Examiner required a restriction between five (5) groups of claims. In response, Applicants elect the claims from Group V, i.e., claims 13, 18-24 and 25-27 for examination. This election, however, is made with traverse. Indeed, the subject matter of each group of claims is so closely related to the others, that the search associated with each group overlap with the searches for the others. As such, no undue burden exists to examine all the claims in a single application. Reconsideration is requested.

It will be noted that by the present Amendment a new set of claims, claims 28-46, has been presented. It is believed that all the new claims fall within the definition of the Group V claims and should be grouped accordingly. These claims correspond to those currently pending in Applicants' counterpart European application.

Any questions concerning this response should be directed to the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

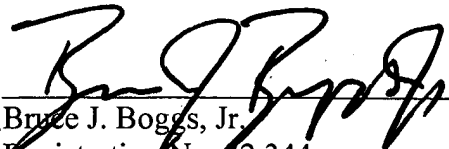
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4047.

Respectfully submitted,

BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN, LLP

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By:


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